



Technology Transfer Program Fact Sheet

The wealth of technology resulting from space exploration is a valuable national resource and an investment in the future. Through NASA's Technology Transfer Program, the John C. Stennis Space Center in South Mississippi contributes to the U.S. economy by transferring technology in the form of processes, products or programs in order to fulfill technical and business needs of the public. The possible results are enhanced potential for industrial productivity, creation of jobs and increased returns on investment for the taxpayer.

Through NASA's Technology Transfer Program, Stennis Space Center encourages greater use of the technology bank by providing a link between the technology and those who might be able to put it to secondary use. The program's goal is to broaden and accelerate the spinoff process and to promote increased benefits from the nation's investment in aerospace research.

NASA's space and aeronautics programs are the source for spinoffs, or technology reapplications, because the innovations they generate are exceptionally diverse. The technology bank has been well used by American industry. Tens of thousands of secondary applications have emerged to benefit the U.S. economy, create jobs, increase industrial productivity and improve the nation's lifestyle.

By congressional mandate, NASA is responsible for promoting spinoff technology for the public interest. The Agency has been challenged to adopt new ways of doing business with the public sector in order to maximize efficiency and deliver more benefits to the American people. Stennis Space Center has a framework of services available to successfully meet this challenge.

Through the Technology Transfer Program, Stennis Space Center personnel worked with Cryopolymers Inc. in St. Francisville, La., to improve a process for recycling vehicle tires. The process takes shredded tires, freezes them and separates the rubber from reinforcing steel belts and polyester fibers. It then produces a material called "crumb," which can be used in asphalt road beds and other items. The process not only has economic value, but it also helps reduce the disposal problem of a worldwide production of more than 300 million tires per year. (Information on numerous other success stories is available upon request.)

Stennis Space Center technology transfer is accomplished primarily in two ways. The first is technology awareness, which trains potential users about the kinds of NASA technologies available and how to access technical information about them. The other is application engineering projects, in which NASA

and a commercial partner enter into a project agreement to work jointly to develop a commercial spinoff application from NASA technology. Services of Stennis Space Center's Technology Transfer Program:

- SSC can arrange technical consultation with experts in virtually every scientific and engineering field. Use of certain laboratory facilities can be arranged on a reimbursable, non-interface basis.
- SSC technology transfer personnel maintain close ties with economic development activities in both Mississippi and Louisiana. These efforts are enhanced by close interaction with the Mississippi Enterprise for Technology and the Louisiana Technology Transfer Office, both located at Stennis Space Center. These offices provide statewide focus and combine resources with those of NASA to effectively accomplish joint technology transfer projects.
- Also located at Stennis Space Center is the Mississippi/Louisiana office of the Southeast Regional Technology Transfer Center, operated by the Science and Technology Applications Center at the University of Florida, Gainesville.
- NASA Tech Briefs magazine is available through the Technology Transfer Office. The magazine reports new product ideas, new technology items from NASA laboratories and contractors, new software packages and documentation releases. NASA Tech Briefs includes a directory of NASA's national technology utilization network and services.
- SSC's Technology Transfer Office has access to the Computer Software Management and Information Center (COSMIC). COSMIC assists users in locating NASA software available for purchase or licensing. There are an increasing number of desktop computer programs being used in the NASA software center.
- Regional technology transfer centers provide computerized access to more than 100 million documents worldwide, including one of the largest single databases, NASA RECON . These centers also offer consultant services to clients, including access to current awareness surveys in specific technologies. User fees are charged for these services.
- As a member of the Federal Laboratory Consortium, Stennis Space Center has access to technology in 325 federal laboratories nationwide.

For more information about technology transfer services, contact NASA's Technology Transfer Office at Stennis Space Center at (601) 688-2364, or access the home page on the World Wide Web at <http://www.tto.ssc.nasa.gov> (no quotes).

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